



Planning California's transportation system requires extensive coordination between Caltrans and a host of local and regional planning agencies. Regional planning agencies are called Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and/or Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) depending on the size (geographically and by population) of the area that the agency serves. The front inside cover of this document has a map of all of California's MPOs and RTPAs. Caltrans and the regional agencies conduct extensive public outreach throughout the transportation planning process to ensure that California's transportation policies and programs match the public's needs. Many of these same regional agencies are engaged in Regional Blueprint Planning workshops that allow the public to visualize scenarios for their region and then create their collective vision. *Table 1: PPP, CTP and FSTIP Public Involvement—The Nuts and Bolts*, illustrates opportunities for the public to get involved in the development of major CTP and FSTIP products.

California Transportation Plan

The California Transportation Plan (CTP) is the fundamental document for guiding our State's transportation future.

The CTP is a long-range policy plan that presents a vision for California's transportation system. Developed in collaboration with the public and our transportation partners and stakeholders, the CTP defines the goals, policies, and strategies essential to achieve that vision. It provides a common framework to guide transportation decisions and investments that enhance our economy, support our communities, and protect our environment. The CTP involves cooperation with the State's regional transportation planning agencies, is influenced by the regional planning process, and provides guidance for developing future regional transportation plans. As defined by State statute, the CTP is not project specific. The CTP is developed by Caltrans and approved by the Governor or the Governor's designee.



Get Involved Locally!

Check out your RTPA or MPO's website. See Appendix F for a list of California's MPOs and RTPAs and links to their websites.



Get Informed!

Review your RTPA or MPO's long-range plan or PPP by visiting their website.



Regional Long-Range Planning

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), also called a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or Long-Range Transportation Plan, is the mechanism used in California by both MPOs and RTPAs to conduct long-range (minimum of 20 years) planning in their regions. The purpose of the RTP is to establish regional goals; identify present and future needs, deficiencies, and constraints; analyze potential solutions; estimate available funding and proposed investments. The RTP presents a primary avenue for public participation in the long-range transportation planning process. As mandated by federal law, all MPOs

have a documented plan to ensure that the public can participate in the development of RTPs.

Federal Programming

In conjunction with their long-range plans, MPOs also develop short-range programs commonly referred to as Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIPs). FTIPs are project specific and identify funding that is available and committed to projects. Each MPO provides an opportunity for public comment before finalizing its FTIP.

The FSTIP is a statewide compilation of all the regional FTIPs and projects in rural counties. The FSTIP spans a defined period of

time (currently four years) and reflects prioritized projects based on available funding. Currently, Caltrans updates and amends the FSTIP every even year (see *Table 2: Programming: Soup to Nuts* for the FSTIP update and amendment processes). During each update, the FSTIP is made available for public review and comment for approximately 14 to 30 days. Because federal law requires that Caltrans either include or exclude these regional programming documents without alteration, the FSTIP itself provides limited opportunity to adjust specific projects included in individual FTIPs. The value of public review and comment on the FSTIP lies instead in the opportunity to view

TABLE 1: PPP, CTP and FSTIP Public Involvement—The Nuts and Bolts

What	When	Where	How	Why
PPP Extensive public participation plan developed and executed over many months to provide early and continuing opportunities to comment.	During updates, every 3-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft PPP is released on Caltrans website for 45-day statewide public review. Caltrans responds to comments as appropriate. 	Use a range of methods such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone interviews with key stakeholders Regional focus groups Web surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the most effective methods for engaging the public in the development of the CTP/FSTIP. Influence how the public participates in CTP/FSTIP development.
CTP The State's long-range transportation planning policy document.	During updates, every 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to participate on the Caltrans website during early CTP development. Input at appropriate regional workshops across the State (i.e., rural, urban, coastal, southern, northern, and central). Comments on draft CTP that is posted on web for 45-day public review. Caltrans responds to comments as appropriate. 	Use a wide range of outreach techniques such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic website that is readily accessible Email blasts Focus groups Regional workshops Stakeholder group presentations Media outreach Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the public about State transportation issues and the planning and programming processes. Identify the public's transportation concerns and where the public would like the State to invest its transportation dollars. Influence long-range state transportation planning vision, policy and priorities.

TABLE 1: PPP, CTP and FSTIP Public Involvement—The Nuts and Bolts *(continued)*

What	When	Where	How	Why
CTP Amendments Interim updates to the State's long-range transportation planning policy document based on new requirements.	As directed by federal statute (i.e., SAFETEA-LU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are similar opportunities to participate on the Caltrans website; a limited number of regional workshops; and a 45-day public review of the draft CTP on the Caltrans website. • Caltrans responds to comments as appropriate. 	Use similar outreach techniques as for the CTP but on a more limited scale than a formal CTP update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the public about new federal requirements and where there are gaps in new requirements. • Gain consensus on framework or focus for the vision, policy, and priorities of the next full CTP Update.
FSTIP Update Project-specific list of MPO short-range programs and rural projects based on available funding.	Typically, every other year, during October of even years	Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Websites of individual MPOs and/or RTPAs (See Appendix F) • Caltrans' Transportation Programming website • Caltrans' District Offices • State Clearinghouse • Internet • Library distribution—State & Caltrans 	Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail notifications • Hard-copy available at selected locations • Attending public meetings, workshops, presentations • Library distribution—State & Caltrans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for interested parties to comment on statewide programming document • Enables informed decision making
FSTIP Amendments Amendments are changes in scope, cost, and schedule that require public review.	Processed as needed for major changes	Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPO and/or RTPAs websites • Caltrans' Transportation Programming website • Caltrans' District Offices 	Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web postings • Review and comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for interested parties to comment on changes in scope, cost, and schedule • Enables informed decision making

upcoming transportation projects from a statewide perspective. In other words, by providing a comprehensive overview of regional projects and programs, the FSTIP shows the “big picture” of California’s future transportation investments. This allows the public to see the relationships between connecting regions and to understand the nature of project funding. The FSTIP is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Authority (FTA).

Following approval of the FSTIP, amendments are processed as needed. An amendment is any major change in project cost, scope, or schedule. Amendments to the FSTIP are processed according to Amendment Modification Guidelines developed in cooperation and consultation with FHWA, FTA, and individual MPOs (see the FSTIP website for more information). Periodically, minor changes (administrative modifications) are processed that do not require public review.

FSTIP amendments are available for public comment concurrent with, or subsequent to, the public comment period for individual FTIP amendments. Amendments for projects in rural counties are available for public comment via the Internet at the State level and/or the regional level.



Other Public Involvement Opportunities

In addition to the CTP and FSTIP, a wide range of planning and programming documents provide excellent opportunities for early public involvement. The importance of these additional outlets cannot be overestimated—by their very nature, these regional and local efforts offer individuals more opportunities to directly influence their neighborhoods and communities. *Figure 2: Public Involvement Opportunities in California* lists a few of those additional resources. These planning and programming processes are also critical elements leading to development of the FSTIP. Because regional



plans and programs are developed and approved before the FSTIP process begins, participation during these public involvement efforts provides an earlier, and perhaps more valuable, opportunity for public input.

Stay Involved Beyond Planning and Programming

Opportunities for public involvement extend beyond planning and programming efforts, and include public input during project implementation. Caltrans has a number of policies, including Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), that encourage design and operations to respond to community values where State highways serve as main streets. There are also opportunities to stay involved in other project implementation activities, such as construction

and maintenance. Members of the public can check their local Caltrans office to find out how to be involved in the following project implementation opportunities:

- Operations and Design
- Environmental Review
- Construction and Maintenance



Stay Involved!

Public Involvement doesn't end when projects are programmed. Go to the Caltrans home webpage at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/> to locate your Caltrans district and to find out how you can be involved during Project Implementation. The inside back cover of this Plan has a map that shows the location of all the Caltrans districts.

TABLE 2: Programming: Soup to Nuts

FSTIP Update process (process and timeframes may vary)

Step	1	2	3	4	5
Action	MPOs submit FTIPs to Caltrans. Caltrans develops rural project lists.	FSTIP public comment period	Caltrans submits FSTIP to FHWA and FTA.	FHWA and FTA approve FSTIP.	Caltrans posts approved FSTIP.
Timeline	Typically by August 1 of even number years	14 - 30 days (typically August even years)	Typically September/October even years	Within 30 days	Within 7 days
Where to Find It	Websites: MPO and RTPA* FSTIP**	FSTIP Website** State library, Caltrans library			FSTIP Website**

TABLE 2: Programming: Soup to Nuts *(continued)***FSTIP Amendment Process for Metropolitan Planning Organization Region** *(process and timeframes may vary)*

FSTIP amendments are major changes to projects that require public review.

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Action	MPO informs Caltrans of public comment period for draft FTIP amendment.	Caltrans posts notice of FSTIP amendment to the FSTIP website.	Public reviews the draft FSTIP.	MPO submits final FTIP amendment to Caltrans for review.	Caltrans forwards FTIP amendment & recommendation for inclusion in FSTIP to FHWA/FTA.	Caltrans posts the FTIP amendment & FSTIP recommendation to FSTIP website.	FHWA/FTA responds to FSTIP recommendation. Approval constitutes inclusion of changes in the FSTIP.	Caltrans posts the FHWA/FTA approval letter to FSTIP website.
Timeline	Varies by MPO	Within 7 days	Varies by MPO. Typically 14-30 days	Varies by MPO	Within 30 days	Within 7 days	Within 30 days	Within 7 days
Where to Find it	MPO's website and other venues as required by the MPOs Public Participation Plan*			MPO's Website*	FSTIP Website**	FSTIP Website**	FSTIP Website**	

* Refer to Appendix F for website information.

** See FSTIP Website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/fedpgm.htm>

TABLE 2: Programming: Soup to Nuts *(continued)*

FSTIP Amendment Process for Rural Counties

FSTIP Amendments are major changes to projects that require public review.

Step	1	2	3	4	5
Action	Caltrans provides project lists to rural county RTPA. RTPA conducts public notice for air quality conformity as required.	Caltrans prepares FSTIP amendment. Caltrans will post a notice of FSTIP amendment to the FSTIP website. The draft FSTIP amendment and Caltrans recommendation will also be posted on the FSTIP website for public review.	Caltrans forwards FSTIP amendment and recommendation to FHWA and FTA for approval.	FHWA and FTA respond to FSTIP recommendation.	Caltrans posts FHWA/FTA approval letter to FSTIP website.
Timeline	Varies	Amendments will be prepared quarterly. Amendments will be posted for 14 days for public review.	Within 7 days of completion of public review	Within 30 days	Within 7 days
Where to Find It	RTPA Websites*	FSTIP Website**			FSTIP Website**

* Refer to Appendix F for website information.

** See FSTIP Website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/fedpgm.htm>

FIGURE 2: Public Involvement Opportunities in California


PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES *in California*

In addition to the California Transportation Plan (CTP), the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP), the following planning and programming documents provide an excellent opportunity for public involvement (Check Caltrans as well as regional and local agencies' websites for announcements on planning and programming efforts as they occur):

PLANNING	<p><i>Transportation planning refers to the process of identifying transportation problems and creating appropriate long-term solutions to those problems. Planning efforts where you can get involved are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) or Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) • Tribal Transportation Plans • Regional Blueprint Plans • Corridor System Management Plans (CSMPs) • Transportation Concept Reports (TCRs) • Corridor Planning Studies • Congestion Management Agency Plans • Short and Long-range Transit and Rail Plans • Local General Plans
PROGRAMMING	<p><i>Programming is the process of scheduling and funding projects envisioned in long-range transportation plans by committing expected revenues to transportation projects over several years. Programming efforts where you can get involved are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) • Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) • Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) • State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) • Local capital improvement programs